

US Renewable Energy Policy and Deployment Programs

**by Roby Roberts
Renewable Energy Policy Project**

US/China Energy Forum

The Renewable Energy Policy Project

- Founded in 1995
- Not-for-profit national renewable policy research organization
- Supports the advancement of renewables through objective policy research

The Renewable Energy Policy Project

- Headquarters in Washington, DC
- Major funders include: USDOE, USEPA, NREL, the Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation, the Oak Foundation, and the Energy Foundation
- Internet address is <http://www.repp.org>

Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology (CREST)

- Hosts sustainable energy internet site
- Designs and maintains over 70 Web sites
- Produces multimedia software
- Marriage between information and outreach
- Internet address is <http://www.crest.org>

State Policies and Programs Update

- 24 states committed to restructuring
- 15 states created Renewable Portfolio Standards and/or System-Benefits Charges
- Major policy question: “*What should restructured states should do to support the public purpose of clean energy?*”

Renewable Portfolio Standards

- RPS – requires minimum percentage on retail electric suppliers
- Eight states adopted: CT, ME, MA, NV, NJ, PA, TX, and WI
- Issues: size, definition, duration, and oversight
- Develop lowest cost renewables
- Support 4,000 MW new and 3,500 MW existing
- ME requires 30%

System Benefit Charges (SBC)

- SBC – collects funds from electric users
- 12 states adopted: CA, CT, IL, MA, MT, NJ, NM, NY, OR, PA, RI, and WI
- Issues : size, definition, duration, oversight
- Develop, research, emerging technology, education, manufacturing, etc.
- SBC \$1.4 billion by 2010
- CA \$135 million per year

State Renewables Numbers

- 1997 total non-hydro capacity - 16,000 MW (2% of US capacity)
- MN and IA set-asides by 2010 - 1,200 MW
- 1999 green markets supported - 90 MW
- SBC & RPS estimates by 2010 - 5,000 MW
- 2000-2010 US capacity to increase by 80,000 MW

State Policy Questions

- Niche markets – inventories, value chain needs, strategies, technology turnover, etc.
- States' economic and political needs
- Market and regulatory barriers
- Education and market conditioning
- Capital markets - financial instruments, cooperative agreements, etc.
- Develop sustainable national markets

Federal Role

- RPS would support 50,000 MW of renewables (7.5 percent of electric sales)
- \$3 billion SBC would dwarf state programs
- Federal legislation must be implemented soon

Additional Information

- The Electricity Journal, Jan/Feb 2000, *Emerging Markets for Renewable Energy: The Role of State Policies*, by Wiser, Porter, and Clemmer,
<http://www.electricity-online.com>
- Clean Energy Funds, clearing house for info. about state funds dedicated to the promotion of markets for clean and renewable energy,
<http://cleanenergyfunds.org>

Additional Information

- National Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE) created by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council,
<http://www-solar.mck.ncsu.edu/dsire.htm>
- Table of Public Benefit Programs and Electric Utility Restructuring, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy,
<http://aceee.org/briefs/mktabl.htm>

Additional Information

- The U.S. Department of Energy's Green Power Network describing green pricing activities,
<http://www.eren.doe.gov/greenpower/pricing.shtml>
- REPiS a database developed by NREL that contains information about 113,000 MW of renewable energy generation,
<http://www.eren.doe.gov/repis>

Questions?

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